

a safe childhood is an adult responsibility. report abuse if:



YOU SUSPECT ABUSE

You witness red-flag behaviors like crossing a child's boundaries, but don't have hard evidence of abuse.



1. Be an Upstander

by intervening between the offender on the child's behalf:

- Describe the Behavior
- Set a Limit
- Move On

2. Monitor the Situation

in case the offender keeps crossing boundaries; **if they do,**



YOU DISCOVER ABUSE

You witness a child being abused, someone tells you about an incident, or you find photo/video evidence online.



1. Remain Calm

and don't overreact. Showing anger toward the offender or asking leading questions may distress the child and discourage them from further sharing.

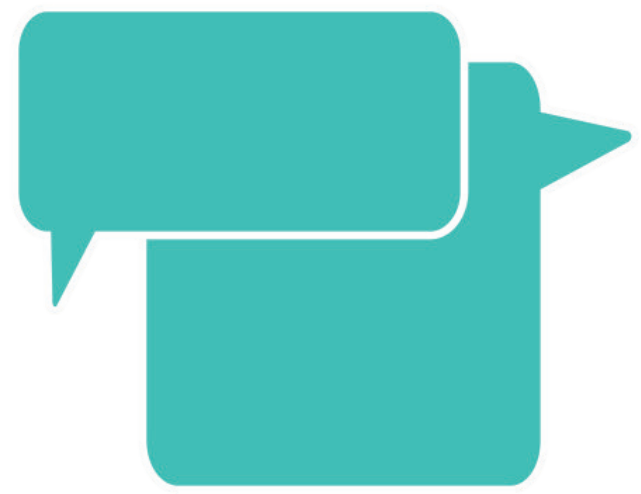
2. Offer Support

by listening and comforting the child. The most important words you can say are, "I believe you," and "it's not your fault."

3. Report. Contact the police and your state's child protective services.

Remember that the law doesn't require you to have evidence when reporting child sexual abuse, it only requires reasonable suspicion. To make a good faith report, provide:

- the child's name, age, and address
- the nature of the abuse or the reason for reporting
- the parents' name and contact, if known
- the name of the perpetrator, if known



A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE

A child reveals to you that they have experienced sexual abuse or are currently being abused.

